REMARKS

Claims 1 – 18 and 20 are canceled. Claims 19, 21 – 29 are amended, and new claims 30 – 35 are added. Claims 19 and 21 - 35 are now pending.

In the Office Action, the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 – 18, 22, 25 and 26 was deemed allowable (if rewritten in independent form). It is respectfully submitted that for the reasons below all of the pending claims are allowable.

The rejections of (previous) claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, and 24 over Pocchairi for anticipation and obviousness were maintained. Applicants do not claim the use of urea is the present claims, and therefore these rejections should be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 1 – 3, 9, 10, 13 – 15, 19 – 21, 23, 24, and 27 – 29 over Manuelidis (anticipation and obviousness) were maintained. To the extent these rejections may apply to the present claims, they are respectfully traversed.

The examiner asserts that Manuelidis does not appear to be limited to in vitro studies. Applicants do not understand the examiner's position. Manuelidis et al. disclose experiments to try to show that prion protein is associated with a virus. They did this by using, among others, guanidine HCl to extract prion protein from nucleic acid-protein complexes into the supernatant. The separated prion protein was disclosed as having very reduced infectivity. Thus, Manuelidis concluded that the viral nucleic acid in the complexes was required for infectivity. Manuelidis was not even concerned with "treating" prion disease. They were

only using standard biochemical agents to separate proteins in the lab. In fact, it would not appear that Manuelidis' work is well accepted, as Sparrer later showed that the "protein only" hypothesis was the correct one (see Specification page 4, second paragraph).

Thus, Applicants submit that Manuelidis clearly does not anticipate the claimed methods of treatment, nor is there any suggestion at all to use guanidine HCl in the treatment of prion disease. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, and 24 over Goldin was maintained. To the extent this rejection may be applied to the present claims, it is respectfully traversed.

The examiner asserts that insomnia is listed as a prion disease in (previous) claim 9 (now only claim 23). However, it is not "insomnia" that is listed, it is "fatal familial insomnia", which is a genetic disease of a prion protein abnormality. The two are not identical or synonymous, and are caused by entirely different entities. Goldin is concerned with the use of guanidine derivatives only to modulate the inappropriate release of neurotransmitters in neuronal cells. It is disclosed that such compounds would be useful for the symptoms of neurological conditions, including insomnia and/or anxiety, among others, by potentiating the release or subsequent actions of inhibitory transmitters such as GABA. This is entirely different from the present invention concerning prion disease.

Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19 and 21 – 35 are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number or email listed below should he believe there are any remaining issues that could be more easily resolved by direct communication.

This paper is being filed with a Revocation and New Power of Attorney. Please address future correspondence to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Revival
Request for Continued Examination
Revocation and New Power of Attorney